REMARKS

Claims 1-3 and 5-15 are pending. Support for the amendment to claim 1 and new claim 15 can be found at page 4, lines 27-34, of the specification.

Claims 1-3 and 5-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over EP 1206976. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

According to present claim 1 a liquid substance B is applied to a rough surface in order to induce a repellent action against other liquids with which B is immiscible. The substance B itself is a liquid as the kinematic viscosity does not exceed 10000 mm^2/sec. Substance B should not be mistaken for a liquid formulation of a substance B, e.g. a solution or dispersion as mentioned by the Examiner. Such a solution or dispersion by no means would be immiscible with a liquid A. Moreover, these solvents will evaporate after a short time. Therefore, it is important that the substance B itself is a liquid.

The Examiner also argues that the prior art suggests liquid silicone oils. However, the prior art does not suggest that these liquid silicone oils *per se* are useful to achieve repellency against liquids. In fact, EP 1206976 discloses conventional water-repellent surfaces for a new use, namely for transporting and storing aqueous dispersions. The invention taught by EP 1206976 is not related to the surface *per se*. Thus, EP 1206976 does not teach any new means for rendering a surface water-repellent apart from conventional ones. However, at the time the invention was made, only water-repellent surfaces were known wherein solid hydrophobizing agents were used to render the surface water-repellent. Thus, a skilled person would have expected that the liquid silicone oils mentioned by EP 1206976 must be cured in order to achieve the water-repellent action. In fact, the liquid hydrophobizing agents in EP 1206976 are cured after they have been applied to the surface, as can be seen from the working examples and

likewise from paragraph 19, where it is stated that the surface is tempered after hydrophobizing. Since this reference relates only to conventional water-repellent surfaces, a skilled person would not have been motivated by this reference to modify the surfaces taught in this reference and even less to use a liquid agent having a specific kinematic viscosity.